

(Washington, D.C.) - A bipartisan bill honoring hospitalized veterans sponsored by House Veterans Affairs Committee Members Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (D-TX) and Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL) passed unanimously today by the U.S. House of Representatives. H.Res.963, the Rodriguez-Miller resolution, honors our nation's hospitalized veterans by supporting the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, February 11-15, 2008, and encourages Americans everywhere to take time this week to thank a veteran for their service to our country. Full text of H.Res.963 follows below.

"I am proud to have authored legislation passed today by the U.S. House that salutes our hospitalized veterans and honors all our nation's veterans," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "I thank Congressman Jeff Miller for joining me as lead sponsor on this bipartisan resolution to recognize the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. The least we can do for our veterans is thank them for their service to our country, and I encourage Americans across the country to take time beyond this week to recognize the contribution of our service men and women."

"We owe our soldiers an eternal debt of gratitude, and giving our support to hospitalized veterans and recognizing their service as we are doing today is one important step toward paying that debt," said Congressman Jeff Miller.

The Rodriguez-Miller resolution, H.Res.963, supports the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, February 11-15, 2008. The Rodriguez-Miller resolution encourages Americans nationwide to pay tribute to and express appreciation for hospitalized veterans, increase community awareness of the role of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and encourages citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers. H.Res. 963 also encourages citizens who live near a VA hospital or clinic to take time this week to visit and thank our veterans and declares that the House of Representatives will continue to work with veterans service organizations to support our veterans with words, actions, and financial assistance.

Congressman Rodriguez serves as a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Congressman Miller serves as a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the House Armed Services Committee.

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FULL TEXT OF H.RES. 963

Rodriguez-Miller Resolution to honor Hospitalized Veterans Week

Whereas February 11-15, 2008, has been designated by the President as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week; (Introduced in House)

HRES 963 IH
110th CONGRESS
2d Session
H. RES. 963

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 7, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, and for other purposes.

Whereas February 11-15, 2008, has been designated by the President as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week;

Whereas the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week each year is an opportunity to thank a special group of men and women, the more than 98,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces, who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domicilaries, and nursing homes;

Whereas at the 155 VA hospitals across the Nation, there are veterans who face the physical and mental wounds of combat every day, long after their military service has been completed;

Whereas we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the veterans, but will thank and support them with our words and deeds;

Whereas Mike Vogel, motion picture actor and star of the newly-released 'Cloverfield', will lead the VA's annual patient recognition program as the national spokesperson, inviting the public to visit and honor hospitalized veterans during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week; and

Whereas Mike Vogel will be the youngest celebrity to lead the National Salute, bringing

youthful energy to the program at a time when the number of young combat veterans under the care of the VA is growing, and as the VA is looking to younger generations of Americans to replenish an aging volunteer force: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives--

(1) supports the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program and its efforts to pay tribute to and express appreciation for hospitalized veterans, to increase community awareness of the role of VA medical centers, and to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and become involved as volunteers;

(2) encourages citizens who live near a VA hospital or clinic to take time this week to visit and thank our veterans; and

(3) will continue to work with veterans service organizations to support our veterans with words, actions, and financial assistance.

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